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Media Release

Update on blue-green algal bloom in Gippsland Lakes

A blue-green algal bloom is currently affecting parts of the Gippsland Lakes.

The bloom is of the species *Nodularia spumigena*, a form of cyanobacteria which can have health implications for humans, domestic animals and livestock as well as environmental impacts.

Current monitoring has found that levels of algae have reached the trigger point for the installation of signs to warn against swimming and other contact with the water at the following locations:

Paynesville Marina
Chinaman's Creek
Eagle Point
Boxes Creek
Nungurner jetty
Some areas of Lake King

And areas identified today:

Metung area: Bancroft Bay, Metung wharf, Shaving Point, Lake King jetty
Lakes Entrance area: Cunninghame Arm and lower North Arm

The Department of Health advises that contact with the water in these areas should be avoided, particularly where scums and discoloured water are evident.

Further monitoring is being undertaken around the Lakes to determine any other areas affected.

There are plenty of other beautiful places around the Gippsland Lakes and East Gippsland for people to visit and enjoy the outdoors.

Lake Tyers remain unaffected by any algal blooms, all river systems are fine and the Ninety Mile Beach is always great for fishing, swimming and enjoying the sunshine.

Information about Blue-green algae is available on the DSE website www.water.vic.gov.au and from DSE's Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

Information about places to visit in Gippsland is available at www.inspiredbygippsland.com.au

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